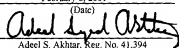


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JG05 Rec'd PCT/PTO 06 FEB 2001
PATENT

HIKAR1.001APC

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant	:	Katsumata et al.	)	Group Art Unit Unknown
)	
Appl. No.	:	PCT/JP00/02785	)	I hereby certify that this correspondence and all
			)	marked attachments are being deposited with
Filed	:	April 27, 2000	)	the United States Postal Service as first-class
			)	mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant
For	:	NOVEL PLASMID VECTOR	)	Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C.
			)	20231, on
Examiner	:	Unknown	)	February 6, 2001
			)	(Date)
)	
			)	Adeel S. Akhtar, Reg. No. 41,394

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-captioned application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as indicated below, and as reflected in the appended replacement claim pages.

3. (Amended) The plasmid vector according to claim 1 [or 2], wherein the DNA segment (D3) at least includes a connecting sequence of terminal bases formed when one LTR is joined to the other LTR.

4. (Amended) The plasmid vector according to [any one of] claim[s] 1 [to 3], wherein the plasmid vector includes a region formed by two LTRs joined together, and both of the DNA segments (D2) and (D3) are situated within the region formed by the two LTRs joined together.